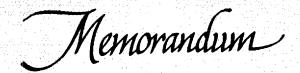
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY







THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CRISIS

Information as of 1000 14 AUGUST 1964

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PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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14 August 1964 SC No. 10471/64

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		 14 August 1964	
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MEMORANDU	M: The North Vietnamese	Situation	
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A .	North Vietnamese Militar	y Activity	20/(1
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В.	Communist Chinese Milita	ry Activity	
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randum of operating has just may have ably not lieved to	7 August that a few MIG in the south China area become available shows the been going on since Aprirelated to the recent crank have less than 20 of the fighters, most of which	-21's were probably . Evidence which hat this activity 1, and is thus prob- isis. China is be- ese high-performance	

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II. OTHER COMMUNIST REACTION

- A. Hanoi's alleged intentions in the event attacks on North Vietnam are "pressed" by the US or the South Vietnamese are contained in a 13 August article in a leading Japanese newspaper by Australian pro-Communist Wilfred Burchett.
- B. An "immediate result", according to the article, will be the "military unification" of North Vietnam with the areas controlled by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam. Since US aircraft have been "using Laos" as a base for attacks on North Vietnam, the US will be considered as having created "a single military front" across Indochina. Creation of a single battlefield would remove the last "pretext" for the 100,000 Vietnamese veterans of the anti-French war--who have remained in training-to stay north of the 17th parallel. This parallel "could disappear overnight" in the event of new attacks on North Vietnam, the article declared. Burchett wrote that carrying the war to the north would also probably bring North Vietnamese "tanks, trucks, and modern weapons" to the Viet Cong.
- C. Burchett allegedly got his information from telephone calls to Hanoi after the Tonkin Gulf events, and from prior conversations with top Hanoi officials. Burchett has taken a leading role in propagandizing the Communist side of the Vietnamese war and is known to enjoy close relations with the North Vietnamese officialdom. His remarks usually echo the general trends of Hanoi policy, but are often erroneous as to detail. In the present instance, Burchett's article is probably intended mainly as a scare item designed to inhibit Laotian and South Vietnamese cooperation with US policy in Indochina and as an unofficial answer to Saigon's "March North" talk.

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- E. Chinese Communist propaganda continues to emphasize that the entire country is "ready" to "deal a telling blow to aggressors who dare to invade." Considerable publicity is being given to mobilization activities in South China. For example, the Chinese Communist news agency reported on 13 August that militiamen in Kwangtung Province have been holding large-scale military exercises and that militiamen in Yunnan and Kwangsi Provinces, "which share the same mountains and rivers with Vietnam", have been angrily demonstrating against the US and promising to support their Vietnamese brothers "at short notice."
- F. This propaganda, like the widely publicized anti-US demonstrations which are still going on in China, is intended in part to raise fears abroad and generate international pressures on the US.

The series of special daily situation reports covering events in the North Vietnamese situation is discontinued with this memorandum. Further developments will be reported in regular CIA publications.

